

**WHY DIDN'T GOD ANSWER MY PRAYER?
Don't Just Stand There—Pray Something (Part 3)
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WHAT MATTERS TO GOD WHEN YOU PRAY?

1.) YOUR _____ MATTER.

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in **prayer**, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive him**, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark 11:24-25*

*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with **respect** as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that **nothing will hinder your prayers**. 1 Peter 3:7*

2.) YOUR _____ MATTER.

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**... James 4:3*

*All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but **motives are weighed by the LORD**. Proverbs 16:2*

3.) THE WAY YOU _____ MATTERS.

*The prayer of a **righteous** man is **powerful and effective**. James 5:16b*

*The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the **righteous**. Proverbs 15:29*

4.) YOUR _____ MATTERS.

*But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will **receive anything from the Lord**... James 1:6-7*

*Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your **faith** will it be done to you"; and their sight was restored... Matthew 9:29-30*

5.) GOD'S _____ MATTERS.

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15*

*"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; yet not **my will**, but **Yours be done**." Luke 22:42*

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

- **YOU MUST HAVE AN HONEST _____ WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST.**

*We know that God does not **listen to sinners**. He listens to the godly man who does His will. John 9:31*

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What is something that you are currently praying for that God has apparently not yet answered?
- 2.) Reread Mark 11:24-25 and 1 Peter 3:7. These verses show that your relationships matter. Are you harboring any unforgiveness or ill will that may be hindering your prayers?
- 3.) Of the five things that matter to God (listed in your notes), which one spoke to you the most? Why?
- 4.) Have you ever experienced a time when God said "no" to your request? What did you learn on the other side?